

DURHAM COUNTY JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

February 24, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Note Taker: Celia Jefferson

Members Present

Tom MacRae
Angela Nunn
Keith Howard
Pauletta Brown Bracy
Herman Scott
Donald Pinchback
Delphine Sellars
David Addison
Nancy Kent
Anna Lee Mosley
Nathan B. Curry
Tim Burris
Arnold Dennis
Karen K. Thompson
Fungai Muzorewa-Bennett

Excused Absences

Gayle Harris
Rhonda Parker

Absence

Julie Linehan
Brenda Howerton

Others Present

Grace Marsh,
Durham Mediation Ctr.
Joni Coss, *CJRC*
Gudrun Parmer, *CJRC*

Welcome, Announcements and Community Concerns

Angela Nunn, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and opened with welcoming everyone and asking all to introduce themselves and share community concerns and announcements.

Anna Mosley informed the council of the 18th annual Vigil against Violence service, sponsored by the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham will be held Thursday, February 25 at the Shepherds House United Methodist Church located at 107 N. Driver St. in Durham. The service will start at 7pm and a reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall at 8pm.

Presentation

Grace Marsh of the Elna B. Spaulding Durham Mediation Center Juvenile Justice Project presented an overview of the project. The components of the program are Victim-offender Mediation, Conflict Management Skills, and In-School Truancy Court. Grace stated that the program has successfully operated for the last 18 months, having been funded by GCC in 2008. During the past 18 months, the program has served more than 204 youth in 8 schools as well as accepting referrals from DJJDP Juvenile Counselors. She added that in the past 6 months, the Juvenile Court District Attorney has grown comfortable with the program and has also begun to divert more cases to the program for mediation.

Grace states that the program is working closely with DJJDP and DPS to provide mediation as an alternative to prosecution, suspension/long term suspensions. And since truancy puts juveniles at risk for crime; the program is expanding efforts to reduce DMC by adding In-School Truancy Court. In-School Truancy Courts will be set up in Shepard, Chewning, and Roger-Herr Middle Schools, Hillside H.S.; and three elementary schools: Eastway, W.G. Pearson and Burton. The purpose of the in school courts are to decrease/eliminate the truancy, increase academic performance, and improve student behavior. Referrals will be made by DJJDP and DPS. Grace is

recruiting volunteers for mediation. She urged all to please call if interested. See more details from distributed handouts.

Minutes

At this time, Angela asked the council to review minutes. **Motion:** Angela motioned that minutes from January 27, 2010 be accepted as presented. **Action:** Seconded and Approved.

JCPC Funding Process Calendar FY 2010-2011

Angela presented an overview of the JCPC Funding Process Calendar and put emphasis on presentations dates (April 12 and 15).

Monitoring Reports

Parenting of Adolescent Program The Program documentation was very thorough and available for review and their expenditures and revenues are consistent with the Program Agreement. The time frame of July-December total number of youth served was 36, of which 16 are new admissions. **Program Strength:** Using an evidence based model supported by OJJDP: Functional Family Therapy (FFT); services are available in English and Spanish. Home-based services are available to all families in Durham, regardless of socio-economic status or insurance. Services are free to clients. Termination evaluations completed by clients reflect that they are pleased with the services. FFT assessment tools reflect significant improvement by parents and children in various areas and reflect self-reported improvement in their familial situations and increased hope for the future. The monitor asked Nicole, program manager to come to the January meeting and give an overview of the program to the council so that they could become even more familiar with the program. **Program Weakness:** The program manager stated that it has been difficult to consistently bill Medicaid for services as many of the families don't have Medicaid. Also many of the families who are referred to the program do have Medicaid, have been receiving services elsewhere and therefore have already used up authorizations for services; not being able to serve clients as soon as they are referred to the program, their wait list means that clients are not able to be seen immediately. It was recommended that this program be considered for continued funding.

Project B.U.I.L.D The monitors found the program to be very impressive with the number of sessions the program holds each month. The Client Tracking Report was very thorough and the court counselor's comments about the program were positive. It was stated that the program does an outstanding job and exceeds all guidelines. In the time frame of July 2009-December 2009, the program has served 38 youth. The program could benefit from additional space for confidentiality in session with clients. It was recommended that this program be considered for continued funding.

Building Family Strength Program The program has a research based curriculum and consists of 12 core components which provide a comprehensive approach to strengthening families. The total number youth served in the time period of July, 2009-December 2009 is 17. **Program Strength:** Consistently building trust. Group setting gets the students engaged. **Program Weaknesses:** first couple of weeks; it is difficult to build trust. Need more finances to serve more kids. Would like to have more parenting involvement, parents did attend graduation. Their plan is to hold two family fun events to engage parents. Overall the program is very organized, and the staff is dedicated. It was recommended that this program be considered for continued funding.

Rites of Passage Program It was reported that the program was found to be very organized and all files were ready for review. All past issues have addressed. Comments from the court counselors were positive. The program's primary focus is mentoring and African young male development.

Delphine stated that if the program could be expanded, Project B.U.I.L.D. would refer more youth to the program. The program is in need of sufficient funding to fund in part or in whole, two positions: program manager and program administrator. It was recommended that this program be considered for continued funding.

The P.R.O.U.D. Program It was reported that the program's supporting documents were very thorough and in order. Have served 30 youth on track from July 2009-December 2009 of which 19 are new admissions. **Program Strength:** The program teaches important life values to help juveniles be productive; positive peer interaction as well as efficacious nature of addressing issues. The court counselor's comments show that they are pleased with the program. Overall the program is effective in its delivery of services and it was recommended that this program be considered for continued funding.

The Strengthening Families Program 10-14 It was reported that the program was late in getting started. The program is equipped with some supporting documents, but not as complete as needed to be. A program revision is needed because of additional funds received from another source. The program needs to establish closer relationship with court counselors. The projected number served is 36 families. Total number served year to date is 10 families. The program collaborates with the Parenting of Adolescent program. Donna, program manager is working on an evaluation report to determine program effectiveness. Another session will start the third week in March. It was recommended that this program be considered for continued funding.

Young Warriors Athlete Scholarship Program It was suggested that everyone should drop by the program and see the great work that is being done. Through karate training youth see improvement in physical health, confidence, self-esteem, self-discipline, anger management and conflict resolution, all of which will leave them less inclined to get into trouble with crime, gangs, drugs, etc. Overall, the program has created a cocktail of services. The program documentation is in order, interactions with the court counselors are good, expenditures and revenues consistent with the Program Agreement and the program website is updated weekly. It was recommended that this program be considered for continued funding.

Adolescent Parenting Program The monitors were very impressed with the availability of paperwork, supporting documents and the obvious collaborations with all of the involved agencies. Total number youth served through July, 2009-December, 2009 is 20 plus one pending. **Program Strength:** Ms. Simpson exemplifies a long term commitment, compassion and is genuinely excited by every accomplishment by the program participants. This program provides resources to pregnant teens, new mothers and their extended families. They utilize all services of DSS to meet the program participant's multitude of needs. In order to provide consistency they offered a Summer Enrichment Program in which the court counselors were involved in a mentoring capacity. **Program Weakness:** No authority or power to make program participants comply. They can only use incentives. Ms. Simpson is working closer with the Daycare and DPS in order to track compliance by the program participants. This is helping with the compliance issues. It was recommended that this program be considered for continued funding.

Juvenile Psychological Services The court counselors keep all records on file if needed. The number to be served as projected in the Program Agreement was 110, but had to be adjusted by 40% because of the psychologist's extended duties outside of DJJDP and a decrease of 25% in funding. Total number youth served year-to-date is 39. **Program Strength:** Court Counselors have immediate access to services. The psychologist is familiar with the depth and the needs of

youth. **Program Weakness:** Evaluations not completed in a timely manner. It was recommended that this program be considered for continued funding.

Teen Court & Restitution The program's expenditures and revenues are consistent with the Program Agreement. Paperwork and supporting documentation were organized and made available. The number served year-to-date is on track with the Program Agreement projection of 85. Total number of youth served year-to-date is 42 of which 14 is considered new admissions. Teen Court primary goal is an alternative court for youth who commit first-time, misdemeanor offenses. The Restitution Program primary service provides community service options for court adjudicated youth. Overall, the program is an excellent resource to the community and makes connections with court counselors on a regular basis. It was recommended that this program be considered for continued funding.

Evidence Based Trauma Assessment & Treatment The program is evidenced based. Due to a lack of connections with court counselors, the program number served is not on track with Program Agreement projection of 13. Total number of DJJDP youth served July, 2009-December, 2009 is three. The program manager states she has made many efforts to connect with court counselors; a presentation, calls, emails and distribution of brochures. The program is planning to implement a Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress program Southern High School, and Chewning Middle School as well as their office site targeting court involved adolescents on February 8, 2010. The monitor suggested that the program make contact with other JCPC funded providers to find out the method they are using to get referrals from court counselors. The program's expenditures and revenues are consistent with the Program Agreement. Paperwork and documentation were organized and made available. It was recommended that this program be considered for continued funding.

Arnold Dennis left the council with a thought about how the programs could collaborate even more: Finding ways to send youth to other programs when coming out of one, depending on their needs.

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.